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Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General discusses Bosnian crisis with military and political aides in Geneva; says meeting urgent needs of refugees is priority for United Nations action.

* Situation in Zepa deteriorates rapidly amid heavy mortar fire by Bosnian Serbs; Bosnian Government troops steal weapons and equipment from Ukrainian peace-keepers in Gorazde.

* UNICEF launches vaccination programme for child refugees from Srebrenica; says Bosnian Serbs have detained children as young as fourteen.

* UNHCR to chair meeting of Humanitarian Issues Working Group of International Conference on Former Yugoslavia in Geneva tomorrow.

* Fifth Committee recommends appropriation of $1.44 billion for United Nations peace-keeping operations in former Yugoslavia, Angola and Western Sahara.

* IFAD provides $2.5 million grant to Agricultural Management Training Programme for Africa.

* Special Committee on Decolonization considers draft resolution on responsibility of administering Powers to promote development in 12 Non-Self-Governing Territories.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali arrived today in Geneva, having concluded his tour of African countries. He decided yesterday to cancel an official visit to Turkey in order to be closer to developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Secretary-General will meet this afternoon and tomorrow with his military and political experts to discuss the Bosnian crisis. He will also

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be in constant contact with officials in New York and elsewhere in order to formulate a plan of action. He said today that responding to the urgent needs of refugees would be a priority.

This morning in Addis Ababa, the Secretary-General met with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Kingsley Amoako. They discussed various ECA activities and ways to revitalize the Commission in order to serve Africa better, particularly in economic and social development. The Secretary-General stopped over in Cairo on his way to Geneva, and had a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa.

In a related development, Mr. Boutros-Ghali has decided to send Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Lansana Kouyate to Dar-Es-Salam and Nairobi as his Special Envoy to brief the Presidents of Tanzania and Kenya regarding his tour of African countries.

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The situation in Zepa deteriorated rapidly today as Bosnian Serb forces subjected the town to heavy mortar fire, according to a United Nations spokesman. Ukrainian peace-keepers continued to man several observation posts but were surrounded either by the Bosnian Serbs or, in some cases, by Bosnian Government forces.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) yesterday succeeded in evacuating more than 80 wounded persons from Srebrenica, the spokesman continued. Meanwhile, United Nations military observers interviewed Bosnian Government soldiers who survived a six-day trek through Serb-held territory from Srebrenica to Tuzla. The soldiers indicated that some 12,000 people had escaped from the enclave last week. However, only half that number had so far reached Government-controlled territory.

In another development, Ukrainian peace-keepers in Gorazde reported that Government soldiers had stolen their equipment and weapons at gunpoint. When the peace-keepers resisted, their commander was assaulted and shots were fired. The United Nations strongly protested the incident and negotiations were underway for the return of the stolen equipment.

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The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) today called attention to the plight of child refugees from Srebrenica. It said that some 60 per cent of the refugees from the fallen enclave currently in or around Tuzla were children, and that most of them were under the age of five. It also noted that the Bosnian Serbs had detained children as young as fourteen.

(more)

The Fund announced that it would begin a vaccination campaign to prevent outbreaks of epidemics, having determined that the vast majority of the child refugees had not had appropriate vaccinations.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, will chair a meeting of the Humanitarian Issues Working Group of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia in Geneva tomorrow. Mrs. Ogata called for the meeting -- the first such since November 1994 -- last month. A total of 60 countries have been invited to attend, including all the countries of the former Yugoslavia and donor countries.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has approved draft resolutions by which the General Assembly would appropriate or authorize some $1.44 billion for various United Nations peace-keeping operations. The Committee also recommended the appropriation or authorization of $57.5 million for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Tribunal for Rwanda.

The Committee approved $1.08 billion for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO), the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) and the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF) headquarters, for the period 1 April to 30 November. It also approved $100 million for UNPROFOR's rapid reaction capacity for the period 1 July to 30 November.

In addition, the Committee approved $150 million for the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) for the period 9 February to 8 August 1995, and $66 million from 8 August to 31 December subject to the extension of its mandate. It also approved $50 million for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for the period 1 December 1994 to 30 September 1995.

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The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) have concluded a $2.5 million grant agreement to help finance the second phase of the Agricultural Management Training Programme for Africa. The Agreement was signed at the Fund's headquarters in Rome on Friday.

The Programme was established in 1984 to increase the availability of trained African managers in the agricultural and rural development sector. It

also aims to improve the effectiveness of rural development projects and strengthen the capacity of selected African management-training institutions. During its first phase from 1984 to 1992, the Programme trained 700 people and benefitted 80 projects in 27 sub-Saharan countries.

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The Special Committee on Decolonization is currently considering a draft resolution which would reaffirm the responsibility of the administering Powers of 12 Non-Self-Governing Territories to promote their economic and social development. The Territories are American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

By the draft resolution, the Special Committee would reaffirm the inalienable right of the peoples of the 12 Territories to self-determination. It would also reaffirm that it is ultimately for those people themselves to determine freely their future political status.

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